

House Resolution 1856

By: Representatives Cummings of the 16th, Richardson of the 19th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Keen of the 179th, Porter of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Authorizing the placement in the Capitol of a portrait of former Speaker of the House
2 Thomas B. Murphy; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Honorable Thomas B. Murphy was born in Bremen, Georgia, on March 10,
4 1924, and graduated from Bremen High School in 1941 and North Georgia College in 1943;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, he served with valor and distinction in the United States Navy in World War
7 II from 1943 to 1946 and following his military service he attended the University of Georgia
8 Law School and graduated in 1949; and

9 WHEREAS, he became widely recognized as one of the wisest and most able members of
10 the Georgia Bar; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphy entered public service as a member of the Bremen Board of
12 Education in 1948 and served on that board until 1965, including service as Chairman from
13 1960 to 1965; and

14 WHEREAS, he served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1961 until the
15 convening of the 2003 session, including service as Administration Floor Leader in the
16 1967-68 term and as Speaker Pro Tempore in the 1971-72 and 1973-74 terms; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphy was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives on
18 December 19, 1973, to fill the unexpired term of the late Geo. L. Smith II; he went on to
19 serve as Speaker through January 12, 2003, making him the longest-serving Speaker in the
20 history of Georgia; and during his tenure as Speaker he was for many years the
21 longest-serving active presiding officer of any state legislature; and

1 WHEREAS, in Georgia political circles, political allies and opponents alike came to respect
2 Mr. Murphy for his honor, candor, commitment to principle, and devotion to the best
3 interests of the State of Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, many current members of this body served with Mr. Murphy and knew him as
5 a man of deep and abiding faith and moral courage; a devoted family man; a lover of sports
6 and nature; and a steadfast friend.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that in
8 recognition of his long and outstanding record of public service, there shall be authorized the
9 placement of a portrait of former Speaker Thomas B. Murphy on the third floor of the State
10 Capitol Building in a location on the House side of the building to be determined by the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Fiscal Officer, under the direction of the
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, is authorized to
14 accept on behalf of the General Assembly a gift or permanent loan of any appropriate portrait
15 which may be in existence and available for this purpose or, if no such gift or permanent loan
16 is forthcoming, to commission the painting of an appropriate portrait for this purpose and pay
17 the cost thereof from legislative funds.